GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3480
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC WASTES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is extremely concerned about the disposal of plastic wastes;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in regard to the extent of damage caused to the environment due to plastic wastes in the rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute has developed an easy method to convert the plastic wastes into a biodegradable wastes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a), (b) & (c): Yes Sir. The National Plastics Waste Management Task Force set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has studied the problem of environmental damage due to plastic wastes and has recommended a package of preventive, promotional and mitigative measures to deal with this problem.

(d) & (e): The Central Tuber Crops Research Institute,Thiruvananthapuram has developed a starch-based biodegradable thermoplastic which can be used as a substitute to low density polyethylene (LDPE).This material can be used for manufacture of films and disposable plastic articles. The material is biodegradable in soil and depending on the starch content in the material, the time required for biodegradation is 4-6 months or 2-5 years.